

March 4, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in a regular session in the Commission Office of the Granite County Courthouse, with Commissioner Adler, Commissioner Kulaski, and Commissioner McLure. Also attending were Commissioners Assistant Maranda Williams and Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw, who attended a portion of the agenda items in person. The session was live-streamed through the Zoom internet-based program available for the public to view the session and provide public comment. The public was also allowed to attend in person and provide comment. The session convened with the pledge of allegiance.

Also in attendance were Luke Ulatowski of the Silver State Post and members of the general public, Elena Gagliano.

BOARD MINUTES: Commissioner McLure moved to accept the board minutes for February 25, 2025. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Mail was received from Five Valleys Land Trust Banquet and Auction on May 3, 2025.

Mail was received from FEMA regarding Flood hazards.

Mail was received from Willowrock, Inc with an invoice and data sheets from winter survey monitoring at Georgetown Lake Dam.

Mail was received from the Granite Justice Court Disbursement report for February 2025.

Electronic mail was received from Helena Airport District Office with Airport Work Assignments.

Electronic mail was received from Sheriff Scott Dunkerson regarding the surplus Ford Explorer and what steps will be taken next.

Blaine Bradshaw sent electronic mail with an email chain regarding the Georgetown Lake Outflows to FWP and Pat Verlanic.

Electronic Mail was received from Joe Gilboy regarding funding/advisory Council and receiving funding through Area V.

Electronic Mail was received from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group with the Agenda for the March 5, 2025 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano regarding correspondence, Justice Court 1 asking what it is. She then stated she knew what it was but asked if the commissioners knew. Commissioner McLure said there used to be 2 Justice Courts, one in Drummond and one in Philipsburg. There is currently just the Philipsburg location, so that's what the one means, and that it's the disbursements for the month of January for the Justice Court. Elena asked the Chairman what he had ended up doing with

the Zoom meeting from last week's correspondence regarding the transition of public health policy; Commissioner Adler replied that he had sat in on it with Jackie Bolster and would update next week at the Board of Health meeting. Elena Gagliano said her point was that they don't have 2 Justice Courts and someone should correct them that they don't have 2 courts. She also mentioned the MACo Conference and said it should be on the agenda since Commissioner McLure attended.

Elena Gagliano said she was doing symbols (thumbs up/down) via Zoom to Blaine Bradshaw's comment and Commissioner McLure. She stated Commissioner McLure should share her notes with the other Commissioners from the legislature.

ROAD & BRIDGE WEEKLY REPORT & SOLID WASTE UPDATE WITH ROAD & BRIDGE SUPERINTENDENT PAUL ALT; Granite County Road & Bridge Superintendent Paul Alt updated the Commissioners on the roads during this portion of the meeting. Plowing snow on paved roads right now. Commissioner Kulaski asked for the big, heavy snow dumps to have guys on call to tend to those. Paul Alt said they always leave 1 one to be called in unexpectedly. The update on the plow truck will be another month or so until it's done.

SOLID WASTE UPDATE; County solid waste transfer sites (dumps) are quiet with no problems.

COUNTY SOLID WASTE POLICY REVISIONS; The meeting discussed revisions to the solid waste policy, focusing on changes to hours, an \$8 minimum dump charge, modifications in the overage section, and a proposed agreement between the county and business owners regarding waste usage throughout the year. County Treasurer Ashley Todd mentioned she could help scan and attach documents for customers and noted that signed agreements must be submitted to the DOR by the 1st of September.

Elena Gagliano provided public comment, asking what the commissioners were talking about for the agenda item and then asking about all the revisions from years past. Blaine Bradshaw said we are looking at current changes, and old revisions aren't relevant.

Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the revised Granite County Solid Waste District's Policies (March 4, 2025 Revision), and Commissioner McLure seconded. The motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the model contract between Granite County and local businesses who need to be assessed different annual units from that set in Policy so tax assessments match actual annual usage. Commissioner McLure seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

YEARLY FUEL TAX CERTIFICATION OF ROADWAY MILEAGE;

Commissioner McLure moved to accept and sign the Yearly Fuel Tax Certification Map. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comments were received. The motion passed unanimously.

US DOT BUILD GRANT OPTIONS FOR LOCAL ROADS IN AREA; Blaine Bradshaw updated the Commission after meeting with Bill Everett, CEO of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. He reached out to discuss grant opportunities to overhaul local roads around Georgetown Lake, and had examples of a \$20 million BUILD Grant that Anaconda-Deer Lodge County received for a project on Mill Creek from the U.S. Department of Transportation, with additional matching funds from the State of Montana. This is all just real preliminary as Congress has not decided yet on the future of such BUILD grants. If funding for BUILD grants continues, Mr. Everett believes the Forest Service, Granite County, and Anaconda-Deer Lodge may want to collaborate on a similar Build Grant that ADLC received. The process involves securing a planning grant for engineered plans, with each party potentially contributing \$10k. If a planning grant is received, it would fund engineering for the project, followed by applying for substantial Build Grant funds (possibly over \$20 million) for the project itself. Funding for a significant match (million dollars or more) is uncertain from other sources, so each party would need to contribute its own funds proportionally. The next step is to assess whether funding will be available, and Bill Everett will get back to Granite County once Congress decides on funding. Commissioner Adler mentioned that homeowners might need to assist with backing this effort.

GEORGETOWN LAKE OUTFLOW; DAM TENDER'S REPORT; According to the USGS lake level gauge and the dam tender's report for the week, the lake level was reported at 6428.76 feet, 8.88 "inches below full pool. Commissioner Kulaski moved to stay at 15 CFS and asked agencies for a potential 20 CFs, which matches the estimated inflows in alignment with the current FERC Order in place. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion.

Sam Dennis and Megan Seitz joined the Commission for this portion of the meeting. Sam Dennis stated they are the first ones to irrigate, but someone is always short when they try to work with other irrigators. They are here to look towards what the summer is going to look like for outflow. They would like to see as much water as possible during irrigation season. Blaine Bradshaw said there's potential for 60 CFS outflows in June 2025 per hydrologist, Todd Blythe's report. Pat Verlanic, a local rancher and irrigator, submitted public comment requesting the Commission to keep releases down for now so more water is available later to release.

Scott McDonald asked what the repercussions would be if the dam spilled. Blaine Bradshaw said that the last time it went over the spillway, there was a litigation threat. Lake homeowners said it did damage to the southside lakeshore, and it's always tough for the Commission to know which way to go as decisions are based on educated guesses. Commissioner Adler commented when water goes over the spillway, agencies (like Montana FWP) don't help, and it all comes back to the Commission. Adler stated they don't help financially with the dam but tell us how to run it. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano asked about an update and letters being discussed. Commissioner Adler said he received phone calls, not written comments, but there was an email under correspondence from local rancher and irrigator, Pat Verlanic. Scott McDonald said to call it what it is; it's a reservoir, not a lake.

The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION'S INSPECTION OF BONDS PER MCA SECTION 7-4-2213; Only performance bond currently in place (for benefit of Granite County) is through TCS for the elevator and bathroom remodel. Commissioner Kulaski moved to acknowledge and accept the bond is in place and binding. Commissioner McLure seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-5; A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COUNTY C-PACE PROGRAM; Ashley Todd joined the commissioners for this portion of the meeting. Commissioner Kulaski asked about the admin fee with this program in place. Ashley reached out to Jefferson County, and she's not sure they can do it as an initiation fee rather than a recurring part of it. They see it as not being an influx. Blaine suggests taking a wait-and-see approach. Carolyn Jones joined the commission for this portion of the meeting. Ashley asked Carolyn if anyone does an admin fee, she said no, none that she knows of.

Commissioner McLure moved to accept Resolution 2025-5; Commissioner Kulaski seconded. Public comment was received from Elena Gagliano who brought up Stephens Hotel; she doesn't think the town has agreed to C-Pace, only the county, and there's a lot of controversy in people coming to town. The town hasn't decided upon this, Blaine said, but the county has, so any businesses within the County may can use the program in the County if they qualify. Blaine Bradshaw reiterated, that per the law, the County Commission doesn't need the blessing of the town; any business in the County may use the program if they qualify. Commission McLure asked Carolyn if this is correct and if the county adopts it, does it count towards the town? Carolyn Jones said yes. Blaine said we didn't clarify enough because it's any business owner in the county; we don't need the towns to sign off on it. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY BOARD APPLICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS; Allison Cash and William Hoehne for Philipsburg Cemetery Board. Commissioner McLure appointed Allison Cash for the Granite County Philipsburg Cemetery District. Commissioner Kulaski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner McLure moved to appoint Vicki Harding to the Compensation Board. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously. Letters of appointment will be sent to the new appointees.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-7; A GRANITE COUNTY RESOLUTION ADOPTING A NEW HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN WITH ADDENDUM; Second Reading; Commissioner McLure moved to adopt Resolution 2025-7 Adopting a new Hazard Mitigation Plan with Addendum. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. No public comment was received. The motion passed unanimously.

ON-LINE GIS VIEWER TO REPLACE THE ARC-READER PROGRAM WITH MATTHEW PEARCE OF MAPS, INC; Matt Pearce, a Mapping and Planning Specialist, has been using ArcReader, a stripped-down mapping software, for over 15 years to support users outside of the dispatch center with access to the 911 data in Granite County. However,

since ArcReader software is no longer supported, Matt Pearce would be willing to work on replacing it with an online map software Viewer program that integrates cadastral and 911 data. The new system allows users to quickly search for locations, view map data, and zoom in. Dispatchers use a central 911 data hub, and deputies have a mobile map that works offline, independent of the cell network. Matt Pearce explained that the Viewer system is self-serve, efficient, and cloud-based, which makes updates faster and more accurate than before. The online Viewer map can be linked to the County's website to allow access for real estate, title companies, and other purposes. The County's mapping system, which has been developed over 25 years, is a valuable tool for locating property, utilities, and other services. The system also integrates with the Department of Revenue's (DOR) programs for property and address verification. It helps with property appraisals, dispatch awareness, and information sharing across county departments. While ArcReader is still in use, it will eventually be phased out as the software is no longer supported. Matt Pearce proposed the Public Map Viewer, which has a \$9,000 upfront cost, is customizable for the county, and has manageable annual maintenance fees (for up to 10 hours per year for customary maintenance; additional changes to be agreed upon with pricing to be agreed upon as well). The discussion also included the potential for the planning board's annual fiscal year budget to help fund the project. Commissioner Kulaski moved to accept the Public Map Viewer and the agreement with MaPs Inc. Commissioner McLure seconded the motion. Town of Drummonds' Mayor, Gail Leeper joined the commission via Zoom to support Matt Pearce for this and stated how she thinks it's a good thing for Granite County. The motion passed unanimously.

COAST 2 COAST PUBLIC SAFETY dba GRANITE PUBLIC SAFETY LLC, BINDING AGREEMENT WITH LEASES; Sarah and Jason Villa joined the Commission for this portion of the meeting regarding renewing ambulance bay and ambulance vehicle lease; and continuing billing for Philipsburg Volunteer Ambulance for one (1) year. Commissioner McLure moved to approve the Binding Agreement with leases and billing part of an agreement with Granite Public Safety LLC. Commissioner Kulaski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Adler mentioned Employee Appreciation Day, which Jackie Bolster is facilitating and giving small gifts to the employees and wanted to run by the Commissioners. The Commissioners all agreed that would be acceptable.

The Session Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.